



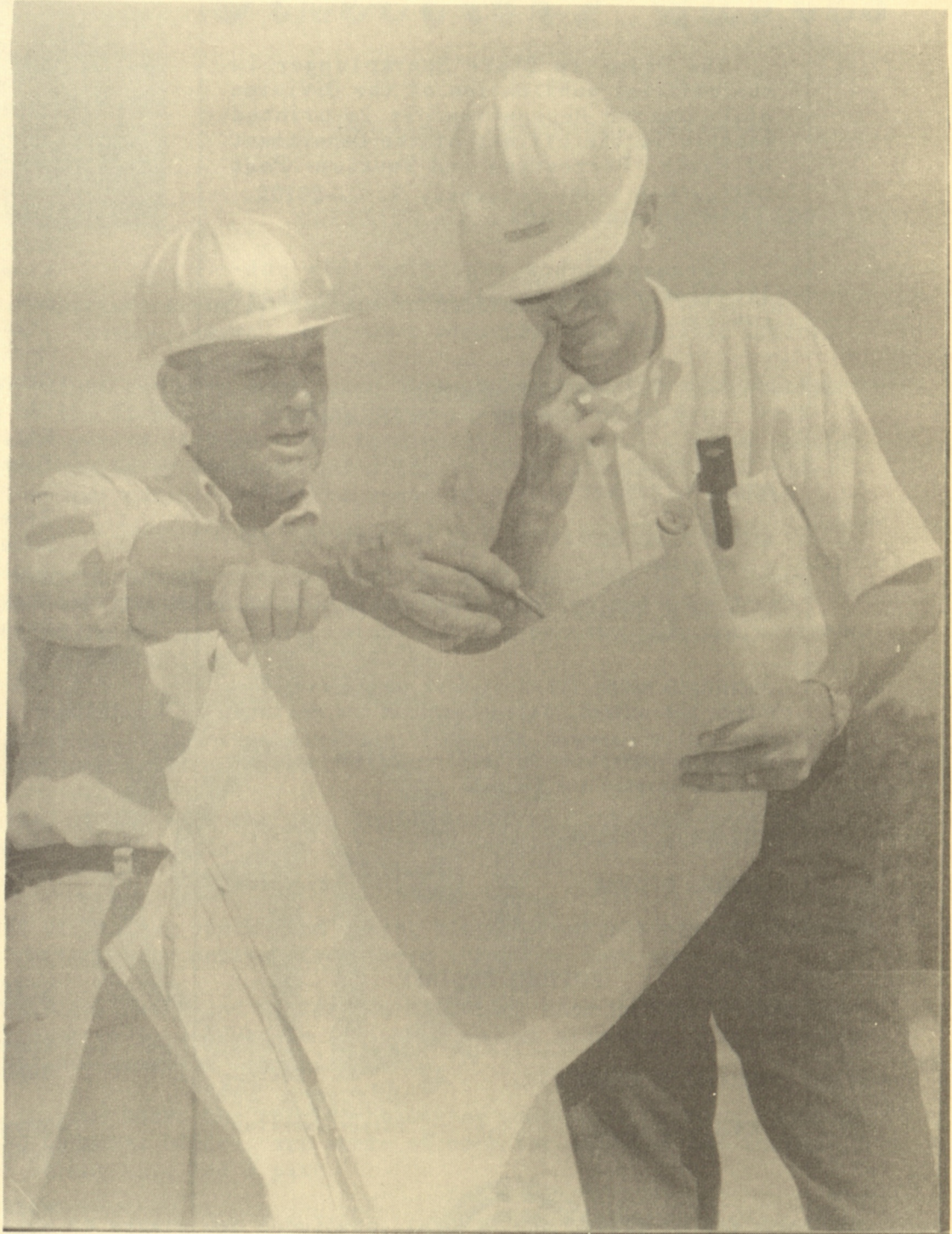
P2375P
3.561
v. 1/15

THE PALMETTO STATE SPARKPLUGGER

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
AND RECREATION

October 1969
Vol. I - No. 15

Cover Photograph
Central Warehouse
Construction Begun



Job Superintendent Ray Beachum
Metal Builders Company, Inc.

Engineer Stan Brant
Division of Parks & Recreation

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM

Post Office Box 1358 - Columbia, South Carolina - 29202



THE PALMETTO STATE SPARKPLUGGER

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
AND RECREATION

The Palmetto State Sparkplugger is the official publication of the Division of Parks and Recreation. It is printed monthly in the offices of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism- Post Office Box 1358, Columbia, S. C.-29202.

Correspondence regarding this publication should be mailed to the above address.

STAFF MEMBERS DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

DONALD M. MCSWEEN *Director*

GEORGE T. HOLDER *Assistant to the Director for Operations*

Raymond M. Sisk *Assistant to the Director for Maintenance*

ARCHIBALD HARDY, III, *Assistant to the director for Recreation, Interpretation and History*

JANSON L. COX *Chief Curator for Historical Interpretation and Museums*

MILLARD H. OSBORNE *I & E Officer*

CHARLES EASTMAN *Engineer*

EDITORIAL STAFF

MILLARD H. OSBORNE *Editor*

ARCHIBALD HARDY *Editor Emeritus*



S. C. STATE PARKS

Aiken
Andrew Jackson
Baker Creek
Barnwell
Cheraw
Chester
Croft
Edisto Beach
Givhans Ferry
Greenwood
Hunting Island
Huntington Beach
Kings Mountain
Lee
Little Pee Dee
Myrtle Beach
Oconee
Old Dorchester
Paris Mountain
Pleasant Ridge
Poinsett
Rivers Bridge
Rose Hill
Sadlers Creek
Santee
Sesquicentennial
Table Rock
Colleton Wayside

STAFF CHANGES:

Charles Eastman
Separation

Raymond M. Sisk
Construction Coordinator

William E. Jones
Assistant to Director
Maintenance

Stanley Brant
Parks Engineer



Director's Quotes

Donald M. McSween, Director

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Once again we have experienced the phenomenon so poetically set to verse in "The September Song", "Autumn Leaves", and other beautiful and familiar lyrics.

Mother Nature has, before our very eyes, gone through her annual transformation from the verdancy of the living and growing, through the splendor of her varicolored and many-hued period of slow - but tremendously beautiful - dying process preparatory to a few months of dormancy and will, in time, gloriously and triumphantly let the natural world emerge once again in Spring's lovely rebirth and re-awakening.

Some of us were fortunate enough to start with the Fall coloring in the Green Mountains of Vermont and the White Mountains of New Hampshire and come South as the greatest artist of all spread the rainbow on His palette from the northernmost region to our own Piedmont or Blue Ridge.

This time has also traditionally been one of harvest and of State and County Fairs where the fruits of that harvest are exhibited and compete with products of other farms, plantations and orchards.

Just as historically, it has been the days during which we look back over the just-completed season, try to balance up our debts and credits, and take inventory.

In short - a period of "taking stock" and making plans to correct any shortcomings as we bask in the satisfaction derived from those things we have done well.

We, in the South Carolina Parks and Recreation Division, know full well that our operation has left much to be desired in 1969, but we can also preen our feathers a bit over many real and tangible accomplishments.

Each of you knows in your heart the entries belonging under each heading, just as I, and those in the Columbia Office, are aware of both for which we are responsible and in which we may have had a part.

It's also a good time to square our shoulders, take a deep breath of the now-brisk air, and resolve that, together, we'll produce even more commendably as we face and tackle the challenges of 1970!

They will be many and of increasing complexity but I, for one, have full confidence that our Division and its fine people can meet and surmount them to the credit of us all and of South Carolina!

EDITORIALS

NEW HAMPSHIRE MEETING

From all reports the 1969 meeting of the Conference on State Parks was highly successful. With joint problems of population explosion and industrialization it is timely for a renewed concern to be directed toward state parks, recreation and conservation.

These are not problems which have become peculiar to other sections of the country; they are and should be of serious concern to South Carolina. Florence County is projected to experience a 70% growth rate between 1970 and 1985. Anderson County is expected to grow by 60% during the same period of time. The growth of such counties as Greenville, Richland and Charleston are projected to have a rate of growth ranging in the 50% bracket.

Industrialization is not only bringing in new people but also urbanizing many we already have. Both of these factors, along with others, will work together to generate a greater demand for recreation and nature-related experiences.

Such meetings as that held in New Hampshire are valuable in giving these needs a national voice, additional to a meeting of minds.

EDITORIAL LICENSE

For once I am going to lay hold upon editorial privilege to ramble just far enough to relate a facet of family tree.

One of my ancestors walked a distance of 10 miles when he was past the age of 102. In fact, Osbornes don't often die and seldom fade away---to draw upon the old barracks ballad.

My father had a half-brother who enrolled in night school out in California on his 80th birthday. For seven years he attended classes, being neither tardy nor absent. Shortly after he celebrated his 87th birthday he married a young lady who was a spry 75. I hazard the serious guess that Uncle Fred became the nation's OLDEST drop-out ---but that is the way marriage goes at times. It all goes to show that the problems of youth and older folk are not vastly different. Only a few decades separate the first childhood from the second.

MAINTENANCE SEASON

The park superintendent passes early September with a sense of relief, knowing that another season has become history. Even before he can pause long enough to survey the general scene, he becomes jarred with the fact that maintenance season is upon him. Across the short days of fall and winter's months, he and his rangers will be repairing structures, trails and beaches. Many of them add new features in this period of time to make the use of the parks a more pleasurable experience.

This vital activity, between seasons, is what really keeps the system going. The men in the parks are to be commended for this valuable service, rendered in a spirit of dedication and consuming interest.

LOCAL COVERAGE

From time to time articles which have been run in local papers have been sent into Central Office. A number of these have been re-printed in this issue of the SPARKPLUGGER in an effort to

encourage all superintendents to work with the local press in securing publicity for their parks.

CARTOON

The cartoon on page seven was taken from the Knoxville Sentinel, some four take-offs on planning. We felt Bill Marsh would draw a laugh from this one and that the syndicating agency would be forgiving of our plagiarism.

IGNITION POINTS

Archie Hardy

The Fall of the year is no time to relax, note several superintendents. They have been working very hard to increase participation during the Autumn season. On October 18, two significant programs were planned - one at Oconee, the other at Little Pee Dee. An Airstream Camping Club's fall campout prompted superintendent Bob Cothran to round up the Oconee State Park Cloggers, a live band, personnel to man the carpet golf course and the new pedal boats and put on a real show for several hundred park users. All twenty cabins were full, too, and a grand time was had by all. Several articles from the Travel Division's writing staff helped fill the park with "fall loliage folks". Little Pee Dee superintendent Lafons Norton and Ranger Henslee Caulder planned a regular "country hoe-down", complete with fiddlers, banjo and guitar pickers, to provide an exciting evening of musical fun. Up at Andrew Jackson State Park, superintendent Bud Lindsay has hosted several teen-age hay rides. Although this keeps the park open later than usual, Bud feels that providing a destination point for such groups will encourage a greater range of use during the cooler months. Nice work, Bob, Fonny, and Bud. We want to read more about these programs, so we can get the other parks interested in providing such activities.

OTHER IDEAS:

Have you folks been "bugged" by skeeters and sech varmits? Why not do something about it? Purple Martin houses made from gourds or wood scraps will provide a home for attractive wildlife as well as keep down your insect problem. Perhaps a local scout troop or a garden club will take this on as a project. Such structures should be placed in the campgrounds, picnic areas, near the bathhouse and each residence. Many parks now have bird feeders, too, which attract and keep birds year-round, but have you considered planting shrubs? Varieties which add color, food and cover for most seasons of the year are desirable. Firethorn and hollies enhance the winterscape. Such plants as Gray Dogwood, Bittersweet and Wild Grape attract the bluebird and robin. Other examples of trees, shrubs and vines are: Wild Cherry; Flowering Crabapple; Pin Oak; Buchthorn; Honeysuckle; Red Chokeberry; fragrant Sumac (a good bank retainer!); Partridge Berry; Virginia Creeper and Greenbriar. For further information, contact the branch of Recreation, Interpretation and History.

FISHING CONTEST WINNERS:

AIKEN STATE PARK

the Rev. Charles Perkins
New Ellenton - Bass

GREENWOOD STATE PARK

Jimmy Chambers
Ninety Six - Bass

LEE STATE PARK

Arthur Hawkins
Bishopville - Redbreast

OCONEE STATE PARK

B. W. Hutto, Aiken - Largemouth Bass
Wilburn McCall, Mountain Resort-Bream

PLEASANT RIDGE STATE PARK

James E. Adams, Marietta - Largemouth
Bass

BARNWELL STATE PARK

N. C. Barwick, Barnwell - Bass

FITNESS PROGRAMS IN YOUR PARKS

Many people in the local communities near the parks are interested in physical fitness. Why not suggest to them the use of your park for jogging, cycling or walking? One or two phone calls could set off a chain reaction involving dozens of citizens utilizing your park in a new and different activity. For example, the Junior Chamber of Commerce has a Youth and Sports Committee which is interested in prolonging life through active participation in strenuous sports. The local coach may like to organize a jogging group three days a week. A Senior Citizens Club may want a quiet, natural area in which to stroll for health. A bike club may desire a meeting place for their weekly jaunts. Why not have the State Park meet these needs!

PRT Headliners.

WILLIAMS RESIGNS - Pat Williams has tendered his resignation to PRT, having accepted the position of Executive Director of Santee-Cooper Country. Pat has done an outstanding job with Travel and his boundless energy and enthusiasm will be missed. PRT is sure he will also find excellence in his new executive position.

DAVID REID has been named to the desk held by Pat Williams, Special Projects. David was Projects Co-ordinator with the Outdoor Recreation Section of PRT. We salute Reid on his new assignment!

JOHN MANN - John Mann, who had been a consultant with Planning, has been named to fill the position vacated by David Reid. John had shown great promise from the beginning of his tour of duty with PRT.

COMMISSIONER PEARMAN - Mr. Silas N. Pearman was recently elected Chairman of the Board of the Carolina Motor Club.

McSWEEN GIVEN RESOLUTION - The following resolution was presented to Director Don McSween:

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS, the 28th Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern State Park Directors met at Litchfield Inn, Litchfield Beach, South Carolina, from September 7 to 10, 1969;

AND WHEREAS, Mr. Donald M. McSween, Director of State Parks, South Carolina and his staff worked so diligently for our comfort, pleasure, and enlightenment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southeastern State Park Directors hereby express their sincere appreciation and gratitude for the fine reception and hospitality and for the effort expended in making this meeting so successful.

TWINS - Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Mathias are the proud parents of twin boys. Wayne has scarcely touched the ground since the blessed event and has been handing out cigars by the box. While the editor is elated for the Mathias household, he is delighted that the same stork did not make the flight toward Camden!

WAREHOUSE CONSTRUCTION INITIATED

Work is progressing at a rapid pace on the new Central Warehouse off I-20. This issue of the SPARKPLUGGER features a cover picture of Park Engineer Stan Brant conferring with Ray Beachum of Metal Buildings Company.

WELCOME NEW CITIZEN! - Planning's Mark David became a citizen of the U. S. A. on October 14.

RETURNING HOME - Phil Partin, son-in-law of Millard and Jackie Osborne, will be returning from Vietnam just after Thanksgiving.

"Firetruck" Causes Stir At State Park

By ELLEN HENDERSON
Index-Journal Women's
Editor

A duck named Firetruck is causing quite a stir among swimmers at Greenwood State Park.

Since he swam into the swimming area from the middle of the lake over a month ago, he's been living on the beach and eating handouts ranging from lettuce to left-over sandwiches to bananas.

"He was just a little yellow duck when he first came in," said Marion Moseley who works at the Park. "We kept him in the lifeguard room at night until Mr. Kennedy the park superintendent built him a wire pen on the beach."

She explained that the duck's become so domesticated that he seldom is penned up at night and has never ventured beyond the swimming cove.

His name was suggested by Sherry Childs, one of the lifeguards who says that his quacking sounds like he's saying "Firetruck."

He follows all of the

lifeguards around and has become especially attached to the Richitelli family from Greenwood who come swimming at the Park almost daily.

"He runs up to greet them when he sees them coming,"

said Bill Tinkler. "He loves the children and follows them the whole time they're here.

"What he's really after is their fishing net," continued Horton Waller.

"Stephen Richitelli and a buddy Mike Kelly drag a net

in the shallow water and give Firetruck all the minnows and small fish they catch."

"Firetruck refuses to eat anything else while they have the net out," claimed one of the lifeguards. "He's really a clever duck!"

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA MEET

PARIS MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

The annual Fall Camporee of Greenville district Boy Scouts begins at 2 p.m. Friday near the Sulphur Springs area of Paris Mountain State Park., with official check-in time set from 4-8:15 p.m.

Approximately 35 scout troops have requested camping space and nearly 1,000 boys are expected, Earl Hudson, camping and activities chairman of the district, said Tuesday.

Hudson said that the theme of the Camporee again will be the "Pioneer Gold Rush," as heavy rains last season forced the program to be largely abandoned, although the Camporee itself was held.

"This program will begin Saturday at 9 a.m. and again at 2 p.m.," Hudson said.

Hudson said each patrol will follow the trail of an ancient prospector, and that along this trail will be tests of scouting skills.

"They'll have to build a fire without matches, read Indian trail signs, find directions by compass, and perform other operations which will display their ability to utilize scout lore," he said.

He said "gold nuggets" will be awarded participating scouts and that Saturday night the nuggets will be used to purchase items for the use of the

patrols.

"Each scout troop also will be judged on campsite layout and erection, sanitation, its commissary, and the morale and discipline of its organization," he said.

Dr. J. R. Bryson will operate a first aid station and Post 142 of Explorer Scouts will be in charge of service and activities Saturday morning, he said.

Friday's activities will end at 10:10 p.m. with "taps." Reveille will sound at 6:30 a.m. Saturday with the day officially ending at 10 p.m.

The Camporee will end after breakfast on Sunday.

COL. JOHN MAY HONORED

AIKEN — Col. John A. May of Aiken was named national historian of the American Legion at its recent annual convention in Atlanta.

May said among other duties he will be in charge of sponsoring historical contests for the legion throughout the U. S.

Well known as an historian and state legislator, May has since 1964 been director of recreation for the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Previously he served in the State House of Representatives for 18 years.

He is past state commander of the American Legion (1955-56), and recently completed his fourth year as South Carolina Department Historian. He was chairman of the South Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission during 1960-65.

He was presented the National Award of Distinction by the National Civil War Centennial Commission.

Death to Yellow Jackets

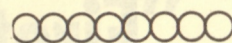
Here's a method developed by the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District to control yellow jackets without finding their nests or spraying poison around. It is based on the fact that yellow jackets, while they eat sweet liquids themselves, take home protein for their larvae.

First, mix two tablespoons of 40-percent wettable chlordane powder (not liquid) with a six-ounce can of tuna fish and two teaspoons of vegetable oil. Place three or four tablespoons of the mixture in small pans suspended out of the reach of children and animals in small wire cages at likely locations around the park. Change the meat about once a day.

The yellow jackets fly into the cage and take some of the bait home to the larvae. The poison kills both the larvae and the adults, but the latter can make many trips before they die, in about eight hours, and a few days of poisoning can wipe out the whole colony.

From Cal. NEWS & VIEWS

Jackson Park Superintendent Describes Prospects For DAR



The new superintendent of Andrew Jackson State Park, Ransom H. Lindsay, was guest for the Waxhaws Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution on Friday, September 26

For their first meeting of the new year, chapter members were entertained at the home of Mrs. H. C. Floyd on York Street. Upon arrival refreshments were served by Mrs. Floyd and her co-hostesses Mrs. Fred Vaughn, Mrs. Bob Collins, Mrs. J. D. Funderburk, Mrs. D. Mack Rowell, Mrs. Cammie E. Simrill and Miss Sadie Adams.

Mr. Lindsay appeared first on the program with information on "Prospects for the Park". He cited the Waxhaws Chapter for its interest in preserving our American heritage and gave them a measure of credit for Andrew Jackson State Park's existence.

His talk served to acquaint the members with his own background and interests as well as those of his wife. He outlined methods by which Andrew Jackson State Park could be made into a museum of frontier living with an accurate portrayal of daily life in Andrew Jackson's youth.

Mr. Lindsay was enthusiastic in the plans and prospects for making the park a place where visitors would visit all year long. In his closing remarks, he paid high tribute to Cecil Hayes for fine work and progress over the years.

Business

Mrs. W. C. Flanagan presided at the meeting as regent of the organization. In the absence of the national defense chairman, Miss Molivia Taylor, facts from an article written by Sara Roddis Jones for the May 1969 issue of the DAR magazine were read by Mrs. Charles Duke. "If we are to serve the cause of freedom, we must get back to fundamentals. We must understand and seek to preserve the moral, the spiritual and the constitutional values on which our freedoms are based. Unfortunately, it is easier to surrender freedom for an illusory security than it is to preserve it," she said in the article entitled "A Cause To Win."

Reports

Mrs. Flanagan announced September 30 as the date for the district meeting in Camden. The local chapter was to serve as a hostess. She and several other members made plans to attend as chapter representatives.

Mrs. Duke gave a full report of her activities as chairman of Constitution Week. She expressed appreciation to those who had helped to make the week a success. Local ministers had cooperated by giving publicity in their various church bulletins. All local schools were given information to be passed on to the students and at some of the schools special programs were presented. Also displays were placed on exhibit at the local library and in the schools. The United States Flag was flown on specified days.

Short reports were heard from those who attended the State Conference in Columbia recently. Mrs. Flanagan attended accompanied by Mrs. Ray Smith, second vice president; Mrs. C. E. Stout, recording secretary and Mrs. Bradford Nims, treasurer.

In giving her report on flags, Mrs. Gibbs Richard told the group that the South Carolina Legislature has recently passed a law stating that the South Carolina flag should no longer be "saluted" but given the "pledge of allegiance."

A special request for this year's DAR work is to honor the Viet Nam dead.

Also members were asked to help with a project at the Veterans' Hospital in Columbia. At the next meeting, they are to bring unwrapped gifts for patients. Mrs. Flanagan urged each one to participate in the worthwhile project.

The next meeting will take place at the home of Mrs. Ben C. Hough Jr. on Chesterfield Avenue.

The Funnybone.....

The welfare worker checked the woman's story that her husband had left her five years ago and was amazed at the brood of babies around the house.

"Who is the father of these?" he asked.

The woman answered: "My husband, of course."

"I thought you said he left you five years ago?"

"That's right. But he comes back now and then to apologize."



Overheard at the convention: "Do you drink?"

"Nope."

"Swell. Here, hold the bottle while I tie my shoe."



A new barber nicked a customer badly in giving him a shave. Hoping to restore the man's feeling of well-being, he said solicitously, "Do you want your head wrapped in a hot towel?"

"No, thanks," said the customer, "I'll carry it home under my arm."



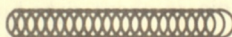
Bank teller to man at window: "Sorry, Mr. Cotter. Your wife beat you to the draw."



Ours is a government of checks and balances—Congress writes the checks and we supply the balances.

The jokes came from the Virginia Road Builder

Dividers from Hardy's marked deck.





South Carolinians attended the 1969 meeting of the National Conference on State Parks in force at Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. Shown left to right are: Sup't Robert Jones, Planning Director Bill Marsh, Commission Chairman Dwight Holder, Parks Director Don McSween, Linda Wea-therly, Sup't Joe Frank Watson, PRT Director Bob Hickman, Archie Hardy and Mrs. McSween.

Roads and Recreation

By BEN H. BOLEN
Commissioner of Parks,
Commonwealth of Virginia

This is the third of a series of eight special articles written for the members and friends of Virginia Road Builders Association to reiterate the importance of our industry to all aspects of the economy of the Commonwealth.

Roads and recreation go right together. People can't get to state parks and other places for outdoor recreational activities without roads, and recreation is one of the main purposes for which they drive on highways.

First of all, let's take a look at what Virginia's state park system has for people to travel to and to do.

The Division of Parks, an agency under the Department of Conservation and Economic Development, currently operates 11 state parks, plus three recreational areas in state forests, three historic sites, a museum, and six natural areas. Two other state parks are in the first stages of development, sites are presently being purchased for four more, and a number of additional areas are under study as possibilities for parks and for preservation of our natural resources. Virginia and Kentucky together operate an interstate park at The Breaks on the border of both Commonwealths.

Visitors enjoy such activities as camping, picnicking, swimming, sunbathing, boating, fishing, water skiing, horseback riding, hiking, observing nature, seeing historical exhibits, dining in park restaurants, and just relaxing. Many people take a week's vacation in 149 fully equipped cabins at eight parks.

The whole range of facilities are operated from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and the cabins remain open through September. About 1,300 campsites are usually full during the summer, and they are available throughout the year. Boating and fishing likewise are permitted year round, as well as picnicking and hiking. Roads are the primary ingress to all of the recreational facilities.

Concerning the historical sites, George Washington's Grist Mill near Mount Vernon had been rebuilt in the 1930's, and in the following decade the state acquired Saylor's Creek Battlefield in Amelia and Prince Edward Counties and the Southwest Virginia Museum in Big Stone Gap.

The post-World War II "baby boom" has created explosion. Also, a majority of Virginians are moving from rural areas to the cities, and people are renewing their interest in outdoor recreation as we became more urbanized. Whereas a rural population once went to town for entertainment and recrea-

tion, the reverse trend is now taking place.

Study Commission Appointed

Realizing that something had to be done to meet the ever-increasing pressure for recreational opportunities, the 1964 General Assembly appointed the Virginia Outdoor Recreation Study Commission, composed of 15 of our most capable citizens. They studied all existing outdoor recreation areas and facilities in the Commonwealth, carefully examined the potentials, and prepared a plan aimed at preserving parks and open spaces for this and future generations. The plan contained a 10-year crash program to provide outdoor recreational facilities of every type.

In the section dealing with state parks, the Virginia Outdoors Plan recommended acquisition of sites for 36 new parks and development of 20 parks during the decade. The 1966 General Assembly adopted this plan, enacted the suggested legislation, and appropriated the funds recommended for the first two years. In addition, much-needed improvements to the existing parks were funded.

The Legislature in 1964 also took a giant leap forward in expanding the state park system by authorizing the acquisition of lands in the Mount Rogers area of Grayson County. The initial funds appropriated by that session were supplemented by a gift from the Old Dominion Foundation and by substantial contributions from the local citizens and others in Southwest Virginia.

Soon the first stage of construction began in Mount Rogers State Park. This was the access road into the rugged terrain from U. S. 58 to the peak of Haw Orchard Mountain. Grading of the main artery was completed a few weeks ago, and the rough grading of branch roads into recreational areas is just about finished.

The main road, over four miles long, is a graceful avenue that will take park visitors through some of Virginia's most spectacular scenery. Leaving Route 58 a few miles west of Volney, it follows a winding path toward the peaks, valleys, and rolling meadows which embrace the primary areas of Mount Rogers Park.



Ben H. Bolen

From its initial elevation of 2,500 feet, the road ascends another half mile to the 5,084-foot top of Haw Orchard Mountain. This altitude is only the vertical length of two football fields below the highest point in Virginia—majestic Mount Rogers which lies in view three miles away.

The Commonwealth purchased Natural Tunnel, a remarkable phenomenon in Scott County, and began operating it as a state park. This outstanding attraction is on U. S. 23-58-421 about five miles east of Duffield. The tunnel itself is 850 feet long and averages 100 feet high, and it opens into a giant chasm ringed by steep stone walls. Additional property is being acquired for development of a well-rounded recreational area.

Another magnificent addition to the state park system is Chippokes Plantation. Mrs. Victor Stewart donated the entire 1,400-acre colonial estate to the Commonwealth. He kind act was an extension of the generous tradition Virginians have exercised through the years for the preservation of park areas, beginning with large gifts of property which aided the establishment of five of our first six parks in the 1930's.

Chippokes is a beautiful James River plantation across from Jamestown Island, and our master plan calls for interpreting its history and continuing the agricultural operations, while providing a complete range of recreation. Additional acreage was bought adjacent to the plantation, and here the recreational facilities will be developed. Plans also call for a scenic road leading into the park from State Route 10 near Surry.

New Tracts Anticipated

In addition to these excellent parks, plans are being formulated and sites are being purchased for several others, including large tracts at False Cape in Virginia Beach, Mason Neck in Fairfax County, Smith Mountain Lake in Bedford and Franklin Counties, and York River in James City County.

(Continued on page 16)

THE VIRGINIA ROAD BUILDER

Oconee State Park Cloggers Win



The Oconee State Park Cloggers won first place in regional Margaret Queen, David Lyle, Susan Duke, Tim Medford, Susan competition in Highlands, N. C. last week. Members are (L-R) Cobb, Bill Queen, Helen Ramey and Jeff Cobb. Andrea Murphree, Bobby Ramey, Margaret Duke, Benny Queen.

(Seigler Photo)

Superintendent of Year in New Hampshire



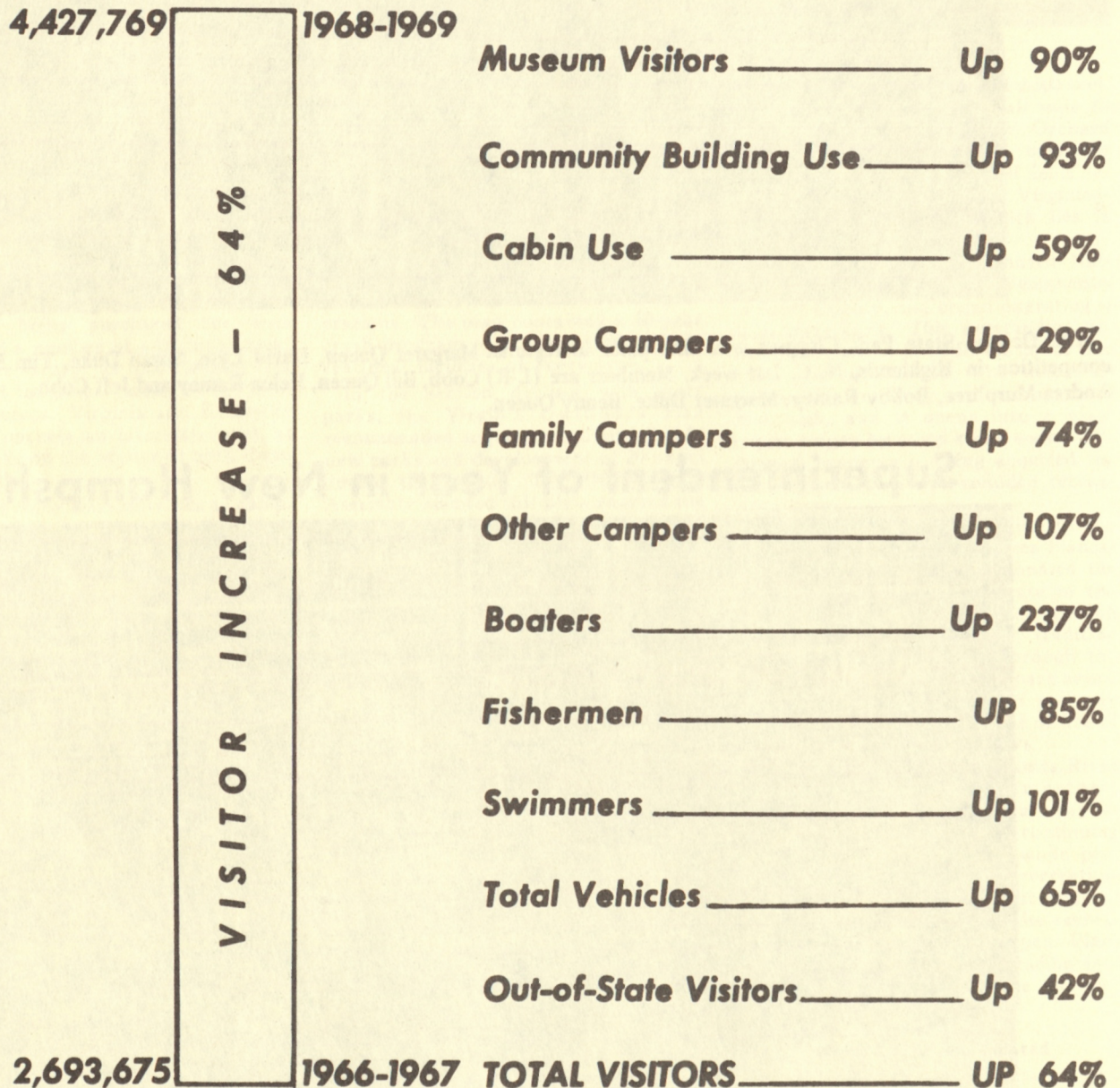
Sup't of the Year Robert Jones Runner-up Sup't of the Year Joe Watson

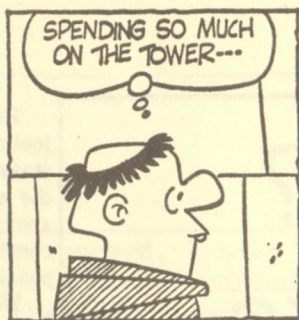
(Another runner-up, Pearce Thomson, was unable to go to New Hampshire.)

Increase in S. C. State Park Attendance

1966-1967 to 1968-1969

INCREASE BY ACTIVITIES





Pumpkin bread

3 cups sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
4 eggs
2 to 3 cups water
2 cups pumpkin
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1½ teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon nutmeg
3½ cups flour
2 teaspoons soda
Nuts and dates, if desired

Sift dry ingredients together. Add sugar, oil, eggs, water, and pumpkin. Mix well (4 to 5 minutes). Bake at 350 degrees in 3 greased loaf pans for 1¼ hours.

Pilgrim wild turkey stuffing

1 lb. fresh pork, ground
3 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 cup chopped onions
4 cups raw, grated sweet potatoes
2 dozen small oysters
2 cups corn bread crumbs
¼ teaspoon sage
¼ teaspoon dried thyme
2 tablespoons minced parsley
1½ teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon pepper

Cook pork in butter over low heat until lightly browned. Add onion and sweet potatoes and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally to keep it from scorching. Add remaining ingredients and blend. Stuff bird lightly. Approximate yield: 6 cups stuffing.

Taken from BETTER CAMPING I'm proud of you

All spring I promised my 8-year-old grandson Mike that we could camp out for a weekend. Every Saturday we collected the odds and ends necessary for our trip. They included everything from a can opener to extra plastic worms. We spent endless hours discussing what we would do when we camped out.

Finally the right time arrived. After work on Friday I picked up Mike and we headed for Lake Bistineau State Park (Louisiana). Mike's excitement was al-

most explosive; he had waited so long.

Friends had gone down earlier in the day and had the trailer parked near a covered picnic table, the electricity plugged in, and water hoses connected. As we drove up, we smelled supper cooking on the small butane stove. Mike donned his swimming suit, had a long swim, then brought a healthy appetite to the laden table.

Shortly after dark I took Mike into the trailer to slip into pajamas and to brush his teeth. "Having fun, Mike?" I asked as I tucked him into the upper bunk.

"I like the swimming and the trailer house fine, Nanny," he said, "but when are we going to camp out?"

Saturday night found one 8-year-old camper and one 46-year-old Nanny under the stars in makeshift sleeping bags. Only a thin net stood guard between us and the mosquitoes. Just before he slipped off to sleep, Mike squelched for all time any complaints about bruised flesh, mosquito bombardment, or snake phobia.

"Gee, this is great," he said. "I'm proud of you, Nanny. You're a real camper." — Loma E. Chandler.



"Finding everything okay? Chips . . . bread . . . cookies . . . crackers?"

Rest Spot? State Parks

By DUDLEY MARTIN
Herald Staff Writer

It's probably too late to help anyone with his vacation plans for this summer, but file this away as a suggestion for next year:



MARTIN

For an enjoyable economical vacation, discover your state parks. This writer and his family just returned from a week's vacation at South Carolina's Oconee State Park and we just can't seem to stop talking about the good time we had there.

Oconee State Park offers a total of 20 vacation cabins for rent, 15 of which are 2-bedroom affairs which sleep six and five of which are one-roomers which sleep four.

Where can a family of four to six go and spend a week in the mountains for as little as \$34.00 (the one-room cabins) to \$50.00 (for the newly-redecorated and panelled ones overlooking the lake)?

South Carolina has a total of 10 state parks which offer cabins for rent. Of these, three are in the mountains — Oconee, Table Rock and Pleasant Ridge. For those who prefer the beaches, there's Myrtle Beach State Park and Hunting Island State Park in Beaufort County.

Oconee State Park is located on top of Stump-house Mountain above Walhalla, S.C. and is alongside Route 107, the road to Cashiers Valley, N.C.

Cabin reservations for all of the parks is handled through the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism in Columbia. Applications must be sent in before March 1 each year and then are selected by public drawing, since the demand usually exceeds the number of cabins available.

Cabins Well-Equipped

The cabins are well-equipped with electric lights, electric stoves, electric refrigerators and running water. The vacationer needs only to bring his own bed linen, towels and silverware.

Since our first-hand knowledge is limited to Oconee State Park, we'll limit our remarks to this location.

From the time we arrived on the scene, we were made to feel like welcomed old friends.

Oconee Park is presided over by Superintendent Bob Cothran, who is well-known in these parts from his tenure as superintendent of Aiken State Park. He is assisted by a group of Clemson University students, who are majors in physical education and recreation, and are as nice and clean a group of young men as you will ever meet.

Occupancy of a cabin entitles you to free swimming privileges in the lake and to all the other recreational facilities, such as horseshoes, volleyball, tether ball, scoop ball and badminton. The swimming area is well-guarded with two life guards on duty at all times and parents can park their young children there and feel that they will be well supervised.

In addition, there is planned entertainment practically every night and most days of the week. The cabin user can participate in the planned activities or pass them up as he desires.

We were participants...

Planned Activities

The week's planned activity began with a guided auto tour to see Stump-house Mountain Tunnel, Isaqueena Falls, the Oconee Fish Hatchery and White River Falls, a breath-taking sight of the highest falls east of the Rockies.

That night, a get-acquainted party included bingo and a good mountain clogging exhibition. Subsequent nights entertainment included a slide program on spots of scenic and historic interest in the area, a square dance with live mountain music and a campfire program where members of the camp staff, abetted by talent recruited from the cabins and campers, entertained. Fishing lessons and a softball game were other daytime activities, plus Sunday School on Sunday morning.

If you wanted to leave the park and sightsee, Highlands, N.C., and Cashiers Valley were within easy driving distance.

Probably its greatest charm is its feeling of being away from it all. We stayed a whole week without hearing the sound of a telephone or worrying about deadlines. And we didn't need air conditioning. We slept under blankets practically every night.

We are happy to know that some of the taxes we pay in South Carolina are going to support Oconee and other state parks. We recommend that more residents of the Sandlapper state discover their state parks.

It was a memorable experience for us.

Walhalla Dancers Win Competition

Members of the Oconee State Park Cloggers square dance team "walked" off with top honors last Thursday night at the Square Dance Festival in Highlands, N.C.

Competing against seven dance teams in the event, the Walhalla group won a first place cash award of \$75. With it they had a plaque engraved with their names and it will hang in a place of honor in the office of Bob Cothran, State Park Superintendent.

Aiken State Park

Late Wednesday afternoon found 11 happy teen-agers under the watchful eye of J. C. Watson of Ridge Springs finishing a trail ride on horseback from Ridge Springs to Aiken State Park.

Watson explained the trip is 35 miles from Ridge Springs to the park. "We make the trip every year," he said. "This is the fifth time we've come. We usually stay anywhere from two days to a week."

The group left Ridge Springs at 7:20 a.m. Wednesday. They rode for 55 minutes and walked for five each hour. It rained on them about half the time. At midday Mrs. J. C. Watson met them with lunch packed in the back of her station wagon.

The group included persons from Ridge Springs, Lexington, Saluda, and Ward. They are: J. C. Watson, Mrs. J. C. Watson, Gates Meadows, Wallace Steadman, Rusty Powell, Joe Watson III, Mary Watson, Karen Beales, Lalla Greneker, Sailey Greneker, Lesley Hill, Buford McGee, and William Bell.

SPARKS.....

Since Labor Day has passed, I have taken time to pause over a cup of coffee and reflect back over the first summer season here at Greenwood.

We arrived in February and this was to my advantage. I had a chance to work with the Rangers. As I stated in my first report to the Sparkplugger, I am very fortunate to have two good men and after a busy and frustrating summer, I can truly say that they are dedicated Park Rangers.

I also know that a Superintendent cannot operate smoothly and efficiently without good summer help. With the exception of one instance, I had outstanding people. The Life Guards ran the swimming area the way it should operate. They were courteous and polite but very businesslike when it came to water safety.

I had an outstanding college student from Lake City, Florida - Freddie Parkman. He pitched in the moment he arrived and by the time the season was in full swing, we used him as a Ranger. I am glad to learn that he is considering South Carolina PRT as the place he would like to work when he graduates next year.

To all the members of PRT, I give a rising vote of thanks for making it possible for the Superintendents to have a three-day meeting. I gained valuable knowledge and insight as well as fellowship during the meeting. I was glad that the Superintendents voted to meet twice a year. It is my hope that it can be worked for the wives to get together.

P.S.: Enclosed is a feature story that ran in the Greenwood Index-Journal on our duck.

Drew Kennedy
Greenwood State Park

Goodbye National Conference on State Parks and hello winter work program at

Cheraw State Park. The trip to New Hampshire was a real treat for me. Not only did I enjoy the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire, but the chance to mingle with park people from across the country was the real treat. Park Superintendents and Rangers enjoy these meetings because it gives them a chance to talk shop with other park people and learn that they don't have all the problems. Cheraw has a new Ranger, Alton F. Ray from Gibson, North Carolina. So far, Alton is well-liked by the other crew members and has proven to be a valuable addition. I was amazed at the amount of work achieved by the Rangers while I was away at Litchfield Beach and New Hampshire. Perhaps they were trying to say they didn't need me!

Joe F. Watson
Cheraw State Park

Around the ruins of Old Fort Dorchester, Autumn is in the air. The squirrels are gathering nuts for the winter, and the leaves are dying and falling from the trees. But the visitors and activities have not been slowed by this or the cool, nippy weather. On October sixteenth, students from the College of Charleston and the Mayor of Charleston, J. Palmer Gaillard, visited the park and had an enjoyable barbecue.

October seventeenth, about fifty students from the Baptist College visited the park and enjoyed a relaxed day from studies with a picnic. Today, the eighteenth, despite the cool, a large troop of Girl Scouts from Summerville enjoyed an outing and visit to the historic park.

Many people have visited the park and some have taken interest in drawing and painting pictures of the old church steeple ruins.

In closing, we extend a warm welcome to everyone to visit Old Fort Dorchester State Park.

Louis M. Hall

October has been a very exciting month at Baker Creek. The hot summer season is over and with cool Fall weather in the air, the leaves have begun to turn into all different bright colors. By the last week of October, everything will be in full color. This is one of the most beautiful seasons of camping. With cool weather, beautiful colored leaves, plenty of fish to be caught and good camp fires to sit around for everyone to tell his favorite camping or fishing store. I might add, there are some very tall tales told. We have several more good weeks of camping left. If any of you can pry yourselves away from football and TV, we will be glad for you to join us around the fire circle.

This is also the season for our winter maintenance program to begin and get our fire-fighting equipment checked and ready to go.

We are still moving right along with the progress of the park. We have added basketball goals, badmitten, horseshoe courts and in the very near future we hope to have a nature trail completed. We have enlarged our picnic areas by removing and burning of old pine tops that were cut several years ago by the Corps of Engineers. We also hope to get started on other park facilities that have been planned for the park. Such as more camping areas, bathhouse, swimming area, picnic shelters and carpet golf.

K. O. Kolb
Baker Creek State Park

In checking back over this season's records, I found that Oconee had increased in receipts over 100%, and in attendance around 50%. During a busy season like this we sometimes fail to recognize the people that worked hard and helped make things like this possible. I would like to give a special thanks to our permanent crew that was so faithful and worked many long hours. Assistant Superintendent Jim Bynum, Rangers Louid Ridley and Cecil Honea. Thanks also to our summer help:

David Lyles, waterfront director; and lifeguards "Chip" Clarkin, Furman Nicholson, Mike Thorton and Alan Baker;

Campground operators Ron Thrower who worked first part of the season, and Jerry Mullikin who worked the last part;

Carpet Golf operators Bill Queen and Jeff Cobb;

Clemson students, Ed Nicholes and Alec Blalock for the first 10 weeks, and Dewey Bowen for the last part of the season;

Also to the following neighborhood youth corp boys that worked 25 hours per week: Gene Elliott, Donnie Elliott, Kenneth Nicholson, Clate Hamby and Stan Smith.

Many thanks to each of the Senior and Junior Cloggers. They performed three times each week and we know this took extra effort to be so faithful.

We were happy to be the host for the Fall Meeting of the Palmetto Unit of The Wally Baum Caravan on the weekend of the 17th, 18th, and 19th. Seventy-four airstreams plus our other campers gave us the biggest camping weekend of the year.

Bob Cothran
Oconee State Park

The weather in the mountains has been perfect for the last month, especially on weekends. We are still having plenty of use in picnicking and hiking. The fall colors are at their peak and are really beautiful.

Our largest activity so far this fall was the Greenville district Boy Scouts Fall Camporee. They spent two nights at the park and had 453 boys. The National Guard furnished them with two large water

carriers and a friend furnished them with one of those large mobile garbage units. As they broke camp, each troop would come by and dump their own trash, so with a final checkup through the area used, about all my crew had to do was to pick up the garbage cans that we had furnished them. About the only way that you could tell that they had been there were a few bare spots at their camp sites. Everything went off just fine, and I hope to have them back next year.

Mrs. Peggy Smith, Welcome Center Coordinator, along with the hostesses for the new S. C. Welcome Center on Interstate 85 near Fiar Play, visited Paris Mountain on October 8, 1969. They were Paula Bellamy of Beaufort, Frances Glenn of Anderson, Kathe McGee of Anderson, and Gretchen Poland of Central. It was a wet and dreary day but the girls with those pretty uniforms and smiles made you think the sun was shining.

We finally got us a tractor at Paris Mountain; although it is a used one, we are glad to get it. It has not stood idle too many hours since it arrived. This should be a must in every park.

Our young son, Chris, is playing football again this year on a 120-pound County League Team. They have won all of their games so far and if they get by their last one next week, they will get into the playoffs for the championship. Keep your fingers crossed.

Our Marine son, Bobby in Vietnam, called us last Sunday. Needless to say, it was wonderful to hear his voice and to talk to him. He is doing fine and said to tell everyone hello. He will be back in the states December 18th. Gosh, what a wonderful Christmas present!

Eddie H. Miller
Paris Mountain State Park

None of the members of the Stike-leather family, driving south on Route 521 to a family reunion, even considered picking up the strange figure who was

hitch-hiking. However, he was not passed unnoticed. "Did you see that hippie?" "What a creep!" and "Who'd pick up a thing like that!" were some of the remarks that I heard made by various members of the family as they carried food into the picnic shelter and made preparations for a pleasant family gathering.

A short time later the same hippie met us at our driveway. He pointed to the group in the shelter and said, "I'm with them, but they don't know it yet." I still had doubts and I followed a short distance behind him as he headed toward the shelter. He had long, shaggy hair, and wore very dark sun-glasses. He wore love beads and a medal over a sleeveless sweatshirt. Ragged shorts, unlaced combat boots and a cane, finished off the outfit.

Conversation stopped, and all turned to stare, as we approached the shelter. As he was about to step into the shelter, a woman screamed, "It's Ray!" Mr. Ray Stikeleather of Charlotte, N.C. had successfully fooled most of his immediate family with an elaborate and original practical joke!

Andrew Jackson State Park was the destination for two church-sponsored hayrides, and the location for a church group picnic, in an experiment in after-dark park operation. The picnic shelter was the center of these activities. Both hayride groups were met there by adults who served refreshments that they had prepared before the young people arrived. A fire in the fireplace seemed to encourage group singing. The picnickers used their own charcoal grills set up just outside the shelter. The three groups totaled approximately 150 people. I feel that valuable experience was gained on these occasions; experience that will prove useful when the picnic shelter is used for night programs for campers from our soon-to-be-constructed campsites.

Members of the Buford High School Senior Class met here at the park and used our beautiful natural setting as a background for Senior Superlative pictures for their school annual.

Ransome H. Lindsay

PLUGS

Mr. Don McSween, Director
Division of Parks, Rec. & Tourism
Columbia, S. C.

Dear Mr. McSween:

The Corinth Baptist Church of New Ellenton, S. C. would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to Mr. Krajcik and his staff for a most delightful week for our church camp held at Aiken State Park in August, 1969.

Everyone at Aiken State Park was very helpful and most courteous. The entire park was exceptionally clean and not a single child got a mosquito bite.

May God continue to bless your every effort in your most important task.

Yours very truly,

Rev. Charles Perkins, Sr.

Gentlemen:

I would like to say that my wife and I were much impressed with your facilities at Huntington Beach State Park during our recent stay there. We particularly enjoyed the spacious campsite, the conveniences, and yet the privacy and seclusion afforded there as compared to other similar areas we have visited.

I would also commend your personnel for their friendliness and excellent job of maintenance of these facilities. I would particularly cite Mr. Donald Brown, Ranger, for his pleasant manner and accommodation.

Very truly yours,
B. D. Ward
Charleston, W. Va.

Dear Don:

The Palmetto State Sparkplugger, which you so kindly mailed to me here, is a delightful issue of pictures and information. Especially enjoyed the cover picture of past directors and you. Wes and Vreeland are just as I remember both of them. Pictures of the S. E. Directors and of their wives are treasures to have and Ree is especially grateful for the latter. Thank you sincerely for sending the publication and again for the famous S. C. hospitality in the White Mountains. You have a great crew. Give them all my best.

Ree will not permit me to go to S. C. next year without her. It's too soon to say that I will be there, but we're thinking seriously about it.

Warm regards,

Earl P. Hanson
Nat. Conference on
State Parks,
Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Mr. McSween:

The Greenville District, Boy Scouts of America, Blue Ridge Council, recently held their Fall 1969 Camporee at Paris Mountain State Park. We have planned many camporees at many different places but none were as successful as this year.

This was mainly due to the tremendous efficiency of Mr. Ed Miller, the Superintendent. Ed is the kind of man you feel like you have known a long time, even though you may have just met him.

We all have busy schedules and little time to praise, and a lot of time to criticize. However, when you work with someone like Ed Miller, you take time to praise. This we mean very sincerely.

Earl Hudson
Boy Scouts of America
Greenville, S. C.

Mr. Donald M. McSween, Director
Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Columbia, S. C.

Dear Don:

It certainly was a delight having a chance to get better acquainted with you and also see how well you operate. It was an excellent job you people did in making all of us feel welcome to come to South Carolina. I, for one, certainly look forward to it.

Sincerely,

Chas. H. Odegaard
Director,
Washington State
Parks & Recreation
Commission

Sirs:

For some time I have wanted to write to commend Mr. Bob Cothran and his staff at Oconee State Park. They keep the cleanest park I have ever seen, their friendliness and willingness to help the visitors are quite remarkable.

Perhaps all I need say is that we think he runs a great park!

Sincerely,

Mildred S. Bisu
Orangeburg, S. C.

Dear Mr. McSween:

I hope you will forgive this homespun typing job. We returned to our home in New Jersey about one week ago, after a very pleasant camping vacation at Huntington Beach State Park.

We were so very favorably impressed with the facilities, their maintenance, and the cordial attitude of all of the park staff, that we inquired as to your

identity. You and your staff are certainly to be complimented on the excellent job that is being done at the park, and we wish to thank you. I sincerely hope you will continue to welcome New Jersey people so warmly!

Very truly yours,

Paul J. Harbaugh, Jr.
Westfield, New Jersey

Dear Don:

Thank you very much for the South Carolina hospitality at the meeting of the National Conference on State Parks in New Hampshire. It was certainly nice to see such a fine group of people representing South Carolina. I am looking forward to the meeting at Myrtle Beach next year.

Sincerely yours,

Laurence H. Marks, Chief
Division of State Parks
State of Alabama

Dear Don:

Once again South Carolina's Parks Department has put its best foot forward—this time in New Hampshire, of all places. Your people were certainly a credit to your State, and their enthusiasm and good spirits will undoubtedly be responsible for a fine turnout at the National Conference on State Parks' meeting in South Carolina next year.

I, for one, am looking forward to being there, and to once again enjoying your company at that time.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Gable
Commissioner
Department of Parks
Kentucky

Dear Mr. McSween:

It was good meeting you and Mr. Hardy at the Crawford Notch conference and to learn that South Carolina will be the host state next year. Your kind invitation to have a display there is appreciated and we shall try to follow through on this. Do keep us informed on the conference developments.

Very sincerely yours,

J. J. Shomon, Director
Nature Center Planning Div.
National Audubon Society

Dear Don:

I acknowledge with thanks your very kind letter of September 19th concerning my appearance at the meeting of the Association of Southeastern State Park Directors.

I would like to repeat what I told you at Litchfield - that I am greatly impressed with the South Carolina State Park organization. You and your staff are doing a splendid job, and it certainly makes me and others who struggled through the early stages of the South Carolina State Park development feel that it was all worthwhile.

With very best regards and thanks again for inviting me to participate in your meeting,

Sincerely yours,

Randolph A. Walker, V. P.
Dan River Mills
Danville, Virginia

Dear Mr. McSween:

Sally and I enjoyed so much the South Carolina hospitality in New Hampshire. It was a real pleasure talking to you again and it's always stimulating to

hear the progress in recreation development being made by your group.

James R. Franklin
Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dear Don:

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the 28th Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Park Directors. I thoroughly enjoyed exchanging views with those present, and I was fortunate to have an opportunity to review metropolitan recreation needs. Our primary challenge is to serve all the needs and to determine priorities in those cases where there is not enough money to go around.

Sincerely yours,

Roy K. Wood
Regional Director
U. S. Dept. of Interior

Dear Don:

Your kindly letter of September 19 has been received and believe me our visit to your State was highly enjoyable.

Personal regards to all of those who worked so hard to make our stay pleasant.

I am enclosing a Xerox copy of a column I wrote for last Sunday's Boston Herald-Traveler. Also enclosed is a copy of the way the column appeared in the newspaper. The cuts in copy were necessary because of the pressure on this page. We have been using two outdoor pages, but with fall coming on it was necessary to cut the copy.

Cordially yours,

Bob Elliot
Director, Vacation Travel
Dept. Economic Dev., Maine

Dear Mr. McSween:

Several weeks ago, we were introduced to Chester State Park for our first camping vacation. My husband and I were delighted with the beautiful and peaceful surroundings and marveled how well the grounds were kept.

We also found Mr. Doster and the Ranger very courteous and considerate in exercising their duties.

There was one thing that didn't please us so much, and that was when the people came for a picnic they jam-packed the camper's rest rooms. Nor did we like it when these same people walked through the camping area sightseeing.

Please do not consider this a complaint, as it is merely intended to suggest an area you may wish to consider for improvement.

Very truly yours,

Edith B. Bowles
Palmetto, Florida

Dear Don:

It was a distinct privilege to attend the 1969 Meeting of the Association of Southeastern State Park Directors at Litchfield Inn.

This was an outstanding meeting of the Association and will long be remembered by those who were present. The manner in which you handled your responsibilities as president were excellent. The program was timely and stimulating. The hospitality extended to us will long remain in our memories.

On behalf of Elizabeth and myself, we wish to commend you and the members of your division and department for their dedication in making this a most memorable meeting. It will be appreciated if you will thank each individual who had a part in making our visit a memorable experience.

Both Elizabeth and I look forward to a return visit next year.

Sincerely yours,

V. W. Flickinger
Park Planner
U. S. Dept. of the Interior

Dear Don:

Congratulations once again on your award for membership development. This is a fine honor and we especially appreciate the work you have done in membership promotion.

I also want to commend you and your staff on the impressive showing at the National Conference and State Parks Conference in New Hampshire. Your exhibit and the warm hospitality shown by you and members of your staff was instrumental in making the conference a real success. I know that everyone is looking forward to attending next year's meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Again, it was nice meeting you and I hope to see you in Myrtle Beach, if not before.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Artz, Director
Programs and Services,
National Recreation and
Park Association
Washington, D. C.

Roads and Recreation

(Continued from previous page)

Another new park, which is already in full operation, is Occoneechee State Park on Buggs Island Lake in Mecklenburg County. This fine recreational area was leased last year from the U. S. Corps of Engineers. This year Occoneechee has already drawn more than 50,000 visitors even without facilities for swimming, horseback riding, or other activities that we offer in most state parks. However, we are making plans for further development and expansion into 2,100 additional acres which we leased.

One further attraction recently opened by the Division of Parks is Shot Tower Historical Park, located where U. S. 52 crosses the New River at Jackson's Ferry. The Shot Tower, dating from the early 1800's, was a gift to the state by the Lead Mines Ruritan Club, and the people of Wytheville and Wythe County donated funds to purchase the surrounding land—another fine example of our citizens' generosity.

As I mentioned, all of this expansion in Virginia's state park system is necessary to keep up with the rising demand for outdoor recreation. Last year, our attendance exceeded two million, and

it is approaching that figure again this year. And these masses of park users will need roads—good roads—enjoyable roads to reach the parks conveniently, pleasantly and safely.

This is not to say that we must have, or even desire, super-highways to the front gate of every park. The interstate and arterial roads are excellent for moving large volumes of traffic in a hurry, but the high speed of today's traffic can get quite monotonous. There remains the need for good secondary roads, winding through the countryside and disclosing the wonders of nature and of rural life long forgotten by the citizens of suburbia.

"... wholesome, uncrowded places ..."

What place does a road have in our family recreational program in such a setting? People want wholesome, uncrowded places where they can learn about the natural environment; where they can see and hear and feel things just as God made them. They want places where their eyes can be opened to the wonders of nature's great design; where all of the outdoors can be exciting and adventurous.

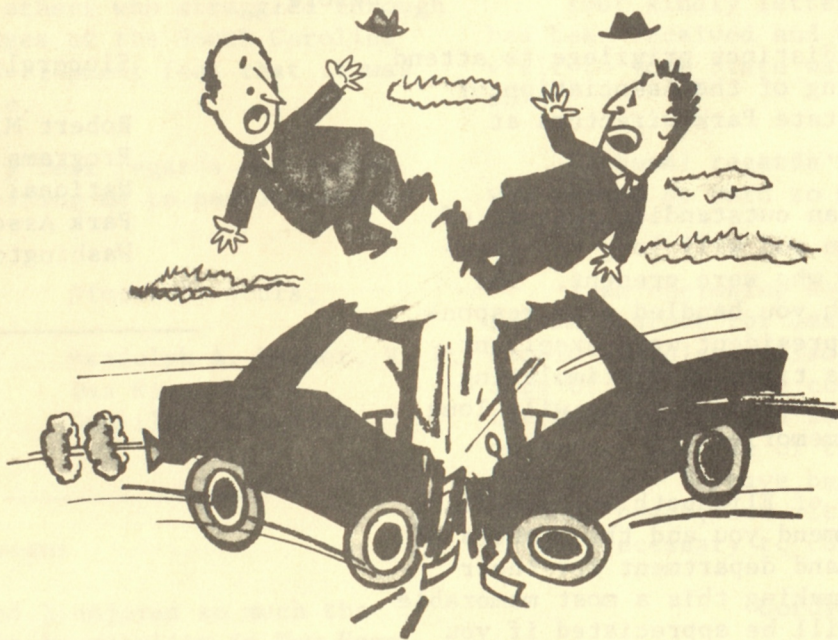
These are the experiences people of an increasingly urban society need, not

only in a peaceful park setting but along the highways which get them there and home again. Engineers and road builders may construct highways and bridges that are perfect in every detail, but man will never come up with anything that even remotely approaches the unparalleled beauties of nature. —But it takes roads to get you there.

Our Virginia Outdoors Plan is a superb blueprint for conserving some of our Commonwealth's land and water resources while at the same time making them available for recreation the enjoyment of nature. This is what our state park program is striving to fulfill. And it is a task in which we seek to enlist all who are interested in good roads and good parks—they go together.

About the Author

Ben H. Bolen, a native of Carroll County, was educated at Emory and Henry College. He served with the Virginia Highway Department from 1938-1950 and with the Division of State Parks from 1950 to the present. Having held many important posts in the broad field of State Park establishment and maintenance, he is eminently qualified to write on the subject.



AVOID ACCIDENTS.....DRIVE SAFELY

RECEIVED

OCT 31 1969